

**BULLETIN  
CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

**NSLP 3-09**

**January 6, 2009**

**SUBJECT: Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Regional  
Questions & Answers**

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This bulletin is a consolidation of FFVP information gathered by USDA at the regional level. Other guidance may be found in the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program Handbook, available on the Child Nutrition Programs website. Feel free to contact us if you have further questions that are not answered within this bulletin or in the handbook.

**Q #1: Are FFVP schools still allowed to use 10% of their funding for administrative purposes?**

A: Yes, schools can retain 10% for administrative costs.

**Q #2: What is the highest grade considered to be elementary? Is it Grade 6 or Grade 8?**

A: An elementary school is defined by the State. The Utah State Office of Education defines K-6 as elementary.

**Q #3: Can FFVP funds be used to purchase Nutrition Education materials?**

A: No. Schools may purchase such materials; however, the money that is spent has to come from either the nonprofit school food service account or the general fund, not from FFVP funds.

**Q #4: May schools use FFVP funds for promotional costs?**

A: No, costs associated with promotional activities cannot be funded by the FFVP. Schools may no longer use administrative funds to purchase promotional activities. If a school chooses to purchase such items, the money that is spent has to come from either the nonprofit school food service account or the general fund.

**Q #5: Are paper goods still an allowable expense?**

A: Schools will be allowed to charge expenses related to acquiring, delivering, preparing, and serving FFVs, such as napkins, paper plates, serving bowls and trays, cleaning supplies, and trash bags. The category under which it falls in the new FFVP handbook may change but those items are allowable expenses.

**Q #6: May the school purchase canned or frozen fruits and vegetables and things like trail mix and dried fruit?**

A: Congress was very clear in the conference report on the Farm Bill that schools only purchase fresh fruits and vegetables and no other products. Therefore, FFVP funds cannot be used to purchase trail mix and dried fruit. Also, another change that will be addressed in guidance is that dips of any kind for fruit are no longer allowed.

**Q #7: In the purchasing of fresh fruits and vegetables, are the schools allowed to claim the shipping and handling charges they now face? For example, if the shipping/handling charges were \$50 and half of the order was for the FFVP, can the school submit \$25 to be reimbursed from the FFVP?**

A: Yes. Those types of charges are considered allowable for acquiring and delivering fruits and vegetables and should be prorated.

**Q #8: With the template claim form from USDA, could schools list the shipping/handling charges on the sheet where they list the various fresh fruits/vegetables that were purchased for the month?**

A: Yes, that would be appropriate.

**Q #9: What is the definition of vacuum packed? How does vacuum packed differ from simply “sealed” items like you get from a vendor, either in bulk or individual servings? Also, why isn’t vacuum-packed allowable, but value-added is?**

A: When the handbook references vacuum packed, it is referring to those items that have a long shelf life, like chopped fruits in a cup, with or without juice, that are vacuum packed. They are too processed and not fresh enough for the FFVP. Typically the fruit provided in baggies, like apple slices, have ascorbic acid/vitamin C on them as a preservative and nothing else. These products would be allowed in FFVP. We want a distinction with the FFVP in that it must be fresh; whereas, in the other school meal programs, fresh, canned and frozen items may be used.